

REMARKS

I. Formalities

Applicants thank the Examiner for initialing and returning copies of the PTO-1449 forms submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on January 25, 2002 and August 19, 2005, respectively.

II. Status of the Application

By the present Amendment, claims 14 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 6-12 and 17-19 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 14 and 20 have been rejected.

The present Amendment addresses each point of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1, 3, 6-12, 17 and 19.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have rewritten claim 18 in independent form and respectfully submit that claim 18 is immediately allowable.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 20 under 35 § U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,583,527 to Fujisaki *et al.* (hereinafter "Fujisaki) in view of

U.S. Patent No. 5,754,154 to Katakura *et al* (hereinafter "Katakura"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for *at least* the independent reasons stated below.

Claims 14 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and, therefore, the Examiner's rejections with respect to these claims are now moot.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

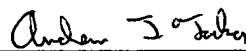
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